

REMARKS

The present Amendment amends claims 1-6 and 8-11 and leaves claim 7 unchanged. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 1-11.

Applicants note that the Examiner did not consider the Information Disclosure Statement submitted along with the application on August 19, 2003. Attached herewith is a Form PTO-1449 listing the document submitted by the August 19, 2003 Information Disclosure Statement. An indication that said reference has been considered is respectfully requested.

Amendments were made to the Abstract to correct minor errors grammatical and editorial in nature discovered upon review. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Wada (U.S. Patent No. 6,744,461). This rejection is traversed for the following reasons. Applicants submit that the features of the present invention as now recited in claims 1-11 are not taught or suggested by Wada whether taken individually or in combination with any of the other references of record. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Amendments were made to the claims to more clearly describe features of the present invention. Particularly, amendments were made to the claims to recite that the present invention is directed to a surveillance camera apparatus which includes an image signal transmission apparatus transmitting an image signal and an image signal reception apparatus receiving the image signal from the image signal transmission apparatus.

According to the present invention the image signal transmission apparatus includes an image pick-up unit for picking-up an object, a position input unit for generating position information relating to a predetermined privacy-related image part, a position data adding unit coupled with the image pick-up unit for superimposing the position information into the image signal from the image pick-up unit and an image signal output unit for outputting the image signal with the position information from the position input unit.

Further, according to the present invention the image signal reception apparatus includes an image signal input unit for applying the image signal with the position information from the image signal transmission apparatus, a position information detector for detecting the position information from the image signal, a recorder for recording the image signal without masking or with masking, an image signal output unit for outputting the image signal without masking or with masking from the recorder, and a controller for selectively outputting from the image signal output unit, one of the image signal without masking and the image signal with masking the predetermined privacy-related image part based on the position information from the position information.

The above described features of the present invention are not taught or suggested by any of the references of record whether taken individually or in combination with each other. Particularly, the above described features of the present invention are not taught or suggested by Wada whether taken individually or in combination with any of the other references of record.

Wada teaches a monitor camera system including a monitor camera and a control unit for controlling the monitor camera. AS taught by Wada for

masking a privacy zone in a picture taken by the monitor camera, the control unit sets mask data through the use of a contour parameter of a configuration of a mask zone for covering the privacy zone, while the monitor camera side holds the mask data to mask a portion of the picture with the mask zone defined on the basis of the mask data. As per Wada since only a portion of the picture is masked with the mask zone, it is possible to protect the privacy from the picture taken by the monitor camera without impairing the monitoring function. In addition, since the monitor camera side holds the mask data, quick processing becomes feasible.

Applicants have prepared the attached sheet which shows a comparison between claim 1 of the present invention and Wada. In the attached sheet, Fig. A corresponds Fig. 12 of Wada et al and Fig. B corresponds Fig. 13 of Wada et al, wherein a left side view illustrates a camera 11, that is an image signal transmission apparatus which the Examiner refers to, and a right side view illustrates a personal computer 19, or a controller 12 and monitor 13, that is an image signal reception apparatus which Examiner refers to.

Further, in the attached sheet the present invention (Claim 1) shows the constituent elements of the image signal transmission apparatus and the image signal reception apparatus.

In the Office Action the Examiner states that Wada et al discloses in col. 5, lines 42-60 and col. 7 lines 24-29, "A surveillance camera apparatus comprises an image signal transmission apparatus transmitting an image signal and an image signal reception apparatus receiving an said image signal from said image signal transmission apparatus". As illustrated in the attached sheet the camera 11 of Wada

corresponds the image signal transmission apparatus, and the personal computer 19 or the controller 12 + monitor 13 correspond to the image signal reception apparatus. However, the constituent elements of the image signal transmission apparatus and the image signal reception apparatus of claim 1 of the present invention are quite different from those of Wada et al as will be described below.

As recited in the claims the present invention includes a position input unit for generating position information relating to a predetermined privacy-related image part; a position data adding unit coupled with said image pick-up unit, for superimposing said position information into said image signal from said image pick-up unit; and an image signal output unit for outputting said image signal with said position information obtained from said position input unit in the image signal transmission apparatus. whereby the image signal transmission apparatus of the present invention can transmit the image signal without masking and the position information relating to a predetermined privacy-related image part to the image signal reception apparatus. Such features are clearly not taught or suggested by Wada.

In the Office Action the Examiner also alleges a position input unit is disclosed in col. 7, lines 1-23 and col. 8, lines 8-30 of Wada. However, Wada et al discloses the camera 11 in the above description, wherein pan and tilt of the camera 11 is controlled by a camera control section 21 based on the command from the controller 2 in col. 7, lines 1-23 and col. 8, lines 8-30, that is, discloses a control of pan and tilt of the camera 11. However, the present invention provides a position input unit for generating position information relating to a predetermined privacy-related image part, and is

not so constructed as to control the pan and the tilt of the camera 11. Furthermore, although the position input unit in amended claim 1 is provided in the image signal transmission apparatus shown in the attached sheet, the signal of pan and tilt of Wada is sent from the controller 12, which is the image signal reception apparatus shown in the attached sheet.

In the Office Action the Examiner states that the image signal output unit is disclosed in col. 8, lines 31-41 of Wada, wherein the screen as shown in Fig. 3 is described. However, the screen as illustrated in Fig. 3 of Wada is not provided in the image signal transmission apparatus, but in the image signal reception apparatus as described in col.8, lines 20-30 of Wada, wherein "when the operator uses a mouse to designate the central position of a privacy zone in that picture, the personal computer 19 calculates the pan coordinates and positive tilt coordinates ...the central position of the set mask lies at the center of the screen of the personal computer 19."

However, the image signal output unit for outputting said image signal with said position information obtained from said position input unit of the amended claim 1 of the present invention is provided in the image signal transmission apparatus contrary to the teaches of Wada.

Further, in amended claim 1 of the present invention, the image signal transmission apparatus further comprises "a position data adding unit coupled with said image pick-up unit, for superimposing said position information into said image signal from said image pick-up unit". However, the camera 11 of Wada contrary to the present invention does not provide "a position data adding unit" as shown in the attached sheet.

Still further, in the amended claim 1 of the present invention there are provided "an image signal input unit for applying said image signal with said

position information from said image signal transmission apparatus; a position information detector for detecting said position information from said image signal; a recorder for recording said image signal without masking or with masking; an image signal output unit for outputting said image signal without masking or with masking from said recorder; and a controller for selectively outputting from said image signal output unit, one of said image signal without masking and said image signal with masking said predetermined. privacy-related image part based on said position information from said position information detector" in the image signal reception apparatus. whereby the image signal reception apparatus can select any one of the image signal without masking and the image signal with masking the predetermined privacy-related image part based on the position information. Such features are clearly not taught or suggested by Wada.

In more detail, Examiner states in the rejection of claim 1 that "a position information detector" is disclosed in col.8, lines 42-61 of Wada. However, in Wada the coordinates of the mask zone is set at the personal computer 19, as described in col.8, lines 8-9, "the mask setting is made as follows through the use of the personal computer 19", that is, in Wada the position information is made in the image signal reception apparatus, and is detected in the same image signal reception apparatus as shown in attached sheet.

However, as recited in the amended claim 1 of the present invention, "a position information detector" is provided in the image signal reception apparatus, and the position information made in the position input unit of the image signal transmission apparatus as shown in the attached sheet is detected by a position information

detector in the image signal reception apparatus. Such features are clearly not taught or suggested by Wada.

The Examiner states in the rejection of claim 1 that "a recorder" is disclosed in Fig. 11, element 46 of Wada. However, element 46 (IMAGE MEMORY 46) in Fig. 11 of Wada is not the same as "a recorder" of the amended claim 1 of the present invention. Fig. 11 of Wada illustrates in an internal configuration of the camera 11, described in col. 5, lines 9-10 and col. 5, lines 42-45. As clearly taught therein element 46 (IMAGE MEMORY 46) in Fig. 11 of Wada is provided in the image signal transmission apparatus contrary to the present invention.

As per the present invention "a recorder for recording said image signal without masking or with masking" of the amended claim 1 of the present invention is provided in the image signal reception apparatus as shown in the attached sheet such features are not taught or suggested by Wada.

Further, in the Office Action the Examiner states with respect to the rejection of claim 1 that "a controller" is disclosed in col.10, lines 5-9 and 25-34. However, "the camera control section 21 of Wada is provided in the image signal transmission apparatus as shown in col. 10, lines 5-9, and is not provided in the image signal reception apparatus as in the amended claim 1. Furthermore, although the mask zone is displayed in color such as black on the screen, and other masks according to the circumstances as described in col.10, lines 25-34 are taught by Wada "a controller for selectively outputting from said image signal output unit one of said image signal without masking and

said image signal with masking said predetermined privacy-related image part based on said position

information from said position information detector" of the amended claim 1 is not taught or suggested by Wada.

Further, in amended claim 1 of the present invention, the image signal reception apparatus further comprises "an image signal input unit for applying said image signal with said position information from said image signal transmission apparatus; and an image signal output unit for outputting said image signal without masking or with masking from said recorder;". However, the personal computer 19 or the controller 12 + monitor 13 of Wada does not teach or suggest the above described features of the present invention as recited in the claims.

Thus, Wada fails to teach or suggest an image signal transmission apparatus includes an image pick-up unit for picking-up an object, a position input unit for generating position information relating to a predetermined privacy-related image part, a position data adding unit coupled with the image pick-up unit, for superimposing the position information into the image signal from the image pick-up unit, and an image signal output unit for outputting the image signal with the position information obtained from the position input unit as recited in the claims.

Further, Wada fails to teach or suggest an image signal reception apparatus includes an image signal input unit for applying the image signal with the position information from the image signal transmission apparatus, a position information detector for detecting the position information from the image signal, a recorder for recording the image signal without masking or with masking, an image signal output unit for outputting the image signal

without masking or with masking from the recorder, and a controller for selectively outputting from the image signal output unit, one of the image signal without masking and the image signal with masking the predetermined privacy-related image part based on the position information from the position information as recited in the claims.

Therefore, as is quite clear from the above, Wada fails to teach or suggest the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims, and as such does not anticipate nor render obvious the claimed invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC §102(e) rejection of claims 1-11 is respectfully requested.

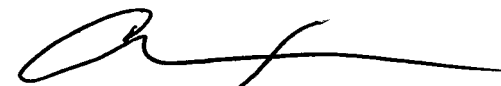
The remaining references of record have been studied. Applicants submit that they do not supply any of the deficiencies noted above with respect to the reference utilized in the rejection of claims 1-11.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 1-11 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of the present application based on claims 1-11 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (520.43033X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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